29th March 1928]

Minor Irrigation

Repairs to tank tunnels of Periyeri and Otteri in North Arcot district.

* 1825 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether memorials from the ryots of Mal-Pudupakam, Wallajah taluk, North Arcot district, were received by the District Collector and the Board of Revenue, urging the necessity for repairing the tank tunnels of Periyeri and Otteri and also the repair of the sluice of Periyeri which is alleged to be in a leaky condition;

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to effect the repairs immediately; and

(c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) The Government do not know whether or no such petitions have been received by the authorities named.

(b) & (c) Even if such petitions have been received, that fact alone would not justify the Government in issuing the orders suggested. Inspection will be necessary and the preparation of estimates. The Government have no reason to suppose that the local authorities are not taking such steps, but the question and answer will be forwarded to the Collector.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Education

Opinions of taluk boards regarding the Elementary Education Bill.

1826 Q.—Mr. K. S. SIVASUBRAHMANYA AYYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have called for the opinions of the taluk boards in regard to the Elementary Education Bill and if not, whether they will do so?

A.—The Government do not consider it necessary to consult the taluk boards.

Irrigation

Irrigation tanks connected with Mettur Project canal system.

1827 Q.—Mr. K. S. SIVASUBRAHMANYA AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government will be pleased to call for and lay on the table the names of all the major and minor irrigation tanks likely to be connected with the Mettur Project canal system in all the villages of Pattukkottai, Arantangi, Mannargudi, Tanjore and Papanasam taluks with their ayacuts, fishery lease income and the assessment derived by the Government during each of the last ten years and with the enhanced fishery lease and water-rate which can be derived by the Government after the Mettur canal water is introduced?

A.—The villages in the Papanasam and Arantangi taluks will not be commanded by the Cauvery-Mettur project. The collection of the information required in the first part of the question will involve an amount of labour and trouble which the Government do not consider would be justified by the result.

The Government have not investigated and do not propose to investigate the question of the income from fisheries in these tanks. For information concerning water-rates the hon. Member is referred to page 191 of Volume XXV of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council. Whether the rates mentioned there will or will not be finally adopted, the Government are at present unable to say. Mr. Leach's report on the revenue estimates of the project has not yet been finally considered and accepted by Government.

Restoration of village storage reservoirs in Tanjore district.

1828 *Q.*—Mr. K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the restoration of village storage reservoirs that existed in the old paimash days, and under the pre-settlement Erikattu system for the economic conservation of irrigation water-supplies during the summer and winter seasons in all the river-side villages of the Tanjore district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that such useful reservoir sites have been of late assigned away on darkhast to ex-war service men and others, viz., in Varahur, Edayiruppu and other villages in the Tanjore and the Papanasam taluks; and

(*c*) will the Government be pleased to call for a list of such village storage reservoir sites assigned to ex-service men and others between 1895 and 1927 in the Tanjore district, and lay it on the table?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 567 which was answered on 18th October 1927. If he will be good enough to inform the Government what is implied in the Erikattu system, the Government will endeavour to answer his questions.

Defective irrigation in Sodasudamani.

1829 *Q.*—Mr. K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the agitation of the Sodasudamani mirasidars in respect of the defective irrigation caused by the inadequate flow of water in the river; and

(*b*) if so, to state what the Government propose to do in the matter?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have received no special representation from the ryots. The fact seems to be that the irrigation under the lower reaches suffers from the fact that the upper reaches are too wide and the sluices draw off more water than is necessary. Action is accordingly being taken to diminish the waterway; the work is in progress and should be finished next year.